

REMARKS

Allowance of claims 22-28 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 2-4 and 16-21 were withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 12-21 and 29 have been canceled. These claims have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer reserving the right to file a divisional application or to take other action to preserve the novelty of the invention.

Claims 5, 7-9, 11 and 30-32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It was noted that claims 29-32 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). In a telephone conversation on January 19, 2005 with the Examiner, the status of claims 30-32 was discussed. The Examiner confirmed that claims 30-32 have allowable subject matter and are not rejected.

Accordingly, claims 5, 7, 8, 11 and 30 have been amended to incorporate the respective base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9, dependent on amended claim 8 has not been further amended. Claims 31 and 32, dependent on amended claim 30, have not been further amended.

Allowance of independent claims 5, 7, 8, 11 and 30 and dependent claims 9, 30 and 32 is respectfully requested.

It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, she is respectfully

urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

April 4, 2005
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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